In case of Writ Petitions mentioned at Sl. Nos. 3 and 6, the parawise comments have already been sent to the Government Counsel for necessary action. As regards other cases, the parawise comments are being prepared and will be sent to Government Counsel for necessary action. These cases will be pursued vigorously through the appropriate legal channels and will be defended in the best public interest.

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs

2276. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn on the News item appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 11th July, 1992 under caption "Life Saving Drugs Scarce";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Vicks Cough Drops, Vaporub, Isabgol, dex, Savlon Liquid, Electrical, Flucort Lotion, Endrine Nansal Drops are outside price control under DPCO, 1987;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for shortages of these products as reporterd despite the fact that the producers are free to charge any price;

(d) whether it is a fact that the producers increased the prices without any basis after the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(e) if so, what was the price of each before DPCO, 1987 and at present;

(f) whether it is a fact that producers are deliberately creating panic by short supply in the market; and

(g) if so, what action has been taken against each under essential Commodities Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only three products namely Savlon Liquid, Flucort Lotion and Endrine Nasal drops are under price control as per DPCO, 1987.

(c), (f) and (g) Number of formulations, both under and outside price control, being marketed at present runs into thousands. In most of these cases of reported shortages, the same medicine is available in some other brand name or therapeutic equivalents are available. As a result, time and efforts required for going into the reasons of shortages of these brands would not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

(d) and (e) To the extent available, information has been given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below) Out of 8 medicines, four are outside the purview of DPCO, 1987. Out of remaining four, three are under price control. Price revision of medicines under price control is given in accordance with the provisons of DPCO, 1987 after obtaining the recommendations of BICP, and expert body on industrial costs and prices. This mechanism ensures that the price revisions approved are related to the actual increase in input costs. As per details given in the enclosed statement, price increase in case of Electrical Granules between 1986 and 1992, does not appear to be unreasonable.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the product	Pack size	Controlled/ Decontrolled	Price before DPCO, 1987	Present Price
1	Vicks Cough Drops .		Ayurvedic Products, outside the purview of DPCO, 1987.		
2	Vicks Vaporub .				
3	Isabgol . . .				
4	Iodex . .				
5	Savlon Liquid . .	1 Ltr.	Controlled	27·86	43·35
6	Electral Granuals .		Decontrolled	6,25 (80 gm) *(IPG, 35)	6·25 (51·5 gm) (IPG, 91)
7	Flucort Lotion 0·25% .	15ml	Controlled	Product was price decontrolled.	4·59
8	Endrine Nasal Drops .	30ml	do.	9,47 (MIMS, Nov., 1988)	9,57 (MIMS, June, 1992)

* Indian Pharmaceutical Guide.

Filing of Writ Petitions by various drug companies

2277. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that writ petitions filed by Synbiotics, Fulford, Glaxo Lyka, Merind, Carews, Diphon are pending in various courts;

(b) when was each filed and what are the details of issues involved in each;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Biotech Pharma, Alkali Chemicals Corporation, Duphar and Pfizer have also filed writ petitions in various High Courts against the action under overcharging;

(d) if so, what is the name of each court, when did each company filed writ petitions and what are the details of issues raised in each writ petition;

(e) what is the latest position of each case and what steps havt been taken by Government to expedite these cases;

(f) whether it is a fact that number of other cases are pending in various courts; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a), (b) and (e) Statement giving the relevant information is attached. (*See* below) The Government is pursuing vigorously these court cases through their appropriate legal channels and these cases will be defended in the best public interest.

(c) and (d) To the extent information is available only M/s. Pfizer has filed two Writ Petitions in the Bombay High